

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

1st. A. A. Bartlett, President. J. R. Burnett, Editor and Publisher. D. K. Currie, Associate Editor.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1920

THE HOG SITUATION

The hog situation in Canada today is not satisfactory. Prices have been declining for some time past and the prices of feed have been so high that by the time a hog is fitted for market there is little left for the farmer.

Chicago, it is well known, sets the price of hogs and hog products and it is to the credit both of Canadian packers and Canadian pork that prices here have, all through this slack period, been higher than in Chicago. This is due partly to our somewhat extensive home market, and partly also to the good reputation of Canadian bacon in the Old Country. It will not be forgotten that we are up against very unequal competition with cheap American pork. Even with the rate of exchange as at present the American dealer can pay the Canadian duty of \$4.00 per barrel on his pork and still undersell our pork in our own markets. Had the Hon. Mr. Lea, Commissioner of Agriculture whose duty it is to safeguard the Canadian and especially the Prince Edward Island farmer, devoted a little more attention to the need of adequate protection for our Canadian meats and a little less attention to theoretical and absurd free trade talk before the Tariff Commission, he would have done at least something to show where the free trade policy of his party would land our farmers if carried out.

Hogs are scarce not only in Canada but in the United States and prices are bound to come up in the very near future or just as soon as the present phase of the situation has passed. The cause of the recent decline is easily traceable.

At the close of the war the British Food Ministry found itself burdened with millions of pounds of American fat pork, for which it had previously contracted. It was then up against the problem of selling this vast amount of pork, which was far from palatable to the average Englishman. Tradesmen preferred to purchase Canadian bacon, which, though of higher quality, had to be retailed at the same price as the American pork. The fact that Canadian bacon was used as a bait to get rid of the fat pork clearly shows the preference of the English public for Canadian goods. These rigid conditions have recently relaxed slightly and the Food Ministry is finding it increasingly difficult to force the American article down the throats of the English public, because, in addition, to the importation of the Canadian article, Danish bacon is beginning to come on the English market in increasing quantities.

Canadian farmers, however, must do their share to hold that trade. The hog industry has experienced a dull year, but with the gradual fall in the price of feeds, the brightness of the outlook increases. There is every reason for confidence in the industry if farmers are prepared to raise the hogs and be ready to step in and hold the trade they secured during the war, but which has temporarily slackened because of British control. What is needed now is that those men who sold off their breeding stock, get back into the business, because there is no doubt whatever that the man who feeds his grain is going to make more profit than he who hauls his grain to market—in spite of the continued control by the British Food Ministry.

THE ROADS.

In the long list of administrative casualties that have emanated from the Bell government and have fallen back upon it with crushing effect, the unfortunate aggregation has still sufficient political breath to exclaim "Look at our work on the roads!" To this work what there is of it, they point with a pathetic and disparaging claim that they should be forgiven for everything else they did, for everything else which they themselves admit they do not expect any mercy or forgiveness for. And some sections of the roads are really good; the piece of road between North River and Bonshaw is excellent as no doubt are a few other sections, but as "one swallow does not make a summer," neither does a section of good road here and there throughout the province afford sufficient material for the proposed monument to Premier Bell. The whole road will be the monument if the memorial to Mr. Bell and his government is to be confined to roads, and taking the bad spots with the good, it will make but a sorry monument. What interests the people today is what use the Bell government is making of the federal grant which is being expended on our roads. The monument, if monument it is going to be, will be one to the memory of Sir Robert Borden and the government he led. It was he who made it possible for Mr. Bell and his party to inaugurate road improvements and if these are not too costly, it is possible that our tired people may erect a tablet somewhere to the memory of the Bell government with the non-committal inscription, "Blessed are the dead." In any case whatever of credit may accrue in the way of good roads the larger part will go to the man who made it possible, who placed a large proportion of the money at the disposal of the province. When, in the course of years and under other premiers, and Premier Bell is laid aside from usefulness or uselessness as the case may be, our roads throughout the province will have become something to be proud of, they will form a grateful monument, not to Mr. Bell but to Premier Borden who inaugurated the federal road grant which made good roads possible.

CURRENT COMMENT

The provincial elections in British Columbia elections, headlined in the Patriot as another glorious Liberal victory, is another strong evidence of that LESSENING POWER OF LIBERALISM of which their leader the Hon. MacKenzie King, complained so bitterly. The Oliver Government went to the country with a backing of thirty seven against ten, Conservatives, Socialists and Independents. They carried the last election by large and sweeping majorities, but in the present instance Conservatives ran them so close that even yet there is danger that a few votes in some constituencies may spell for them disaster. At the best when they select a speaker it will leave them 23 to 23 on the floor of the House and, as in Ontario, New Brunswick and Manitoba, dependent upon the mercy of one of their opposing forces for liberty to live. Considering that there was not the usual record of scandal and wrong doing conjured up by opponents and that the Government's history was a fairly good one, the result of this contest from the standpoint of Conservatives, who almost doubled their following besides vastly increasing their popular vote, must be most encouraging, while to the Liberals it is another of those fatal finger posts that points to their destruction.

A significant feature of the election was in the total failure of the Crerar so called United Farmers party to carry a single seat in the province and, more singular still that the rural or Farmer constituencies were principally awarded to Conservatives. The one only conclusion from this is that the great mass of the farmers and fruit growers of that rich agricultural country are not in sympathy with the Grain Growers combine, and adopted this method of declaring their approval of the tariff policy enunciated to them by Premier Meighen on the occasion of his recent visit to the province. Last summer the United Farmers of B. C. held a conference to consider the strong difference of opinion between the policy of their organization and that which appeared more popular in the country, and at that convention they openly accepted the Fruit Growers tariff views; they went even further and published the finest series of resolutions upon political economy and fiscal policy that we have ever read. The views taken by them in this respect would be a credit to any political party, and yet with all this the Farmers of British Columbia gave their full strength against the Crerar movement and principally in favor of Conservative candidates.

What is true of the fruit growing interest of British Columbia is also true of southern Ontario where the Tariff Commission are literally besieged with applications and protests against interference with the tariff on fruits which, if they monkey with it, will mean the destruction of their business and wiping out the most profitable rural industry in the province. Senator E. D. Smith, one of the largest fruit growers and preserve makers on the continent in his evidence before the Commission declared that—"Not only would the jam industry be wiped out and the Niagara fruit grow-

ers be ruined by free trade, but the refining of sugar in Canada would be dealt a severe blow and the glass industries would be seriously affected." J. A. Livingstone, another fruit grower declared that "unless the present tariff was maintained the fruit market would be annihilated. American pears were now coming in at the rate of 450 bushels a day. Instead of six cents per pound for good pears grocers had to accept one and a half cents this year." It might well be asked why we haggle over a few trifling dollars in the matter of an agricultural implement when as in these cases the saving could only be effected by the sacrifice of the greatest and most important of our agricultural as well as industrial interests?

A new turn is apparently to be made in connection with the farmers movement. The recent disclosure that the Grain Growers, led on by their \$32,000 a year chieftain Hon. C. A. Crerar, is after all a "big interest" has suggested to them a claim upon urban communities, where big interests are supposed to thrive, and their latest proposal is to put candidates in the field in cities as well as in farming districts. Speaking at East Elgin, Hon. Mr. Crerar declared that there was nothing in the policy of the party which applies alone to the farming community, but that it is a doctrine to which all may subscribe who believe in the lowering of the tariff and other plans of the platform. This is the method of escape from the isolation of a group or special class, but of a nature too transparent to deceive any one. It is true enough that "an one may subscribe to the plans of their platform," but it is as strongly true that in doing so he is supporting a huge intending monopoly whose operations threaten to strangle the life of Canadian prosperity.

The Conservatives of Ontario, for the first time in sixteen years, have met in convention with the enormous attendance of 2,500 on the opening day and much larger crowd the day following. Early in the proceedings an intimation came from the body of the hall that the rank and file were going to take an active part in the proceedings, which implies that cut and dried programmes were to be cut out. The small souls of the Liberal press thought that in this they had a morsel to gloat over, and, as in the Patriot, introduced it with big black headlines. In point of fact no better indication of party health, and nothing that party leaders more gladly welcome could have taken place than this. The great difficulty in all party conventions is to get the body of the people to take this active interest but here the difficulty is fortunately overcome.

Three Civilians Killed in Cork

(Special to the Guardian.) LONDON, Dec. 4.—Three civilians are reported to have been shot dead this afternoon near Bandon, County Cork, following an ambush of a party of police, says the Central News Dublin correspondent. The police escaped without casualties he adds.

Daily Selections Guardian Readers

Furnished by W. S. Lawson.
HOME
(By John D. Wells, in "Rhymes of Our Home Folks" published by Harper's.)
A little bit o' romping and a little bit o' song,
A little bit o' laughter through the hall,
A little bit o' trouble and a little something wrong,
A little mother kiss to smooth it all.
A little flash of ribbon and a glint of gingham gown,
A little smile of from roguish eyes of blue,
A little bit o' cheerfulness, a little bit of frown,
A little flash of tears for smiling through.
A little curtained window and a happy little face,
A storm of happy greetings at the door,
A little throne of wicker by a little chimney place,
Nor all the kings of ages boasted more.
A little place of longing where a father's mid-day dreams,
Will lead him from the sordid, busy way—
So little—unpretentious! Such a rich reward it seems
For the little bit of toiling in the day!

A Cross-Arm Brace--- And Your Telephone!

"WELL," you may say, "What is a cross-arm brace?"
"What has it to do with me? What do I care if—"

A cross-arm brace is an uninteresting-looking piece of iron. One end is fastened to the telephone pole, the other end to the cross-arm to hold it securely at right angles to the pole.

At least two are used on every pole, and they have increased in price 249 p. c. since 1913.

A small item. But only one of scores of the vital parts of a telephone system the costs of which have advanced in a like manner.

Here are a few other items:

Batteries	121 p. c.
Pole line brackets	276 p. c.
Insulators	359 p. c.
Poles	136 p. c.
Transmitters	257 p. c.
Top Pins	204 p. c.
Cross-arms	151 p. c.
Ground Line	247 p. c.
Galvd Iron Wire	400 p. c.

This is but another reason why telephone rates must be increased.

The Telephone Company of P. E. Island